

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINR, NI

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF NEW FEC MEMBERS

REF: LAGOS 809

1. FOLLOWING ARE PRELIMINARY BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF NEW FEC MEMBERS APPOINTED JANUARY 24 (REFTEL). WILL SUBMIT FULLER BIO DATA AS IT BECOME AVAILABLE.

2. ABISOYE, BRIGADIER EMMANUAL O. (HEALTH) - THIRTY-EIGHT-YEAR-OLD ABISOYE, YORUBA AND ROMAN CATHOLIC, HAS BEEN SERVING MOST RECENTLY AS ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF NIGERIAN ARMY. HE HAS PERFORMED EXTREMELY WELL IN THIS POSITION AND HAS BEEN FRIENDLY TOWARD AMERICAN OFFICIALS. HE IS BUSINESSLIKE, IMPATIENT WITH DETAILS OR SMALL TALK, ARTICULATE, AND RELATIVELY CANDID. DAO CONSIDERS HIM MOST PROFESSIONAL OF MILITARY OFFICERS NAMED TO FEC.

3. ADEFOPE, BRIGADIER HENRY E. O. (LABOR) - MOST RECENTLY CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL, ADEFOPE ALSO HELD ALMOST NOMINAL POSITION AS DIRECTOR OF ARMED FORCES MEDICAL SERVICES. BORN IN 1926, ADEFOPE COMPLETED MEDICAL TRAINING IN 1953 AND ONLY LATER WAS COMMISSIONED INTO ARMY MEDICAL CORPS. YORUBA AND
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ANGLICAN, ADEFOPE IS EXTREMELY PLEASANT MAN SOCIALLY BUT NEITHER

PROFOUND NOR FORCEFUL.

4. ALI, LT. COL. (DR.) AMADU A. (EDUCATION) - MUSLIM FROM EASTERN KWARA STATE, ALI WAS BORN IN 1936 AND RECEIVED MD DEGREE AT UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH. SERVED SINCE 1963 IN ARMED FORCES MEDICAL SERVICES, OF WHICH HE BECAME DEPUTY DIRECTOR TO ADEFOPE IN 1972. BEST KNOWN AS DIRECTOR SINCE JUNE 1973 OF NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS (NYSC), WHICH HE MADE INTO ONE OF NATABLE SUCCESSES OF MILITARY REGIME. PRINCIPAL TASK IN NEW POSITION WILL PRESUMABLY BE TO REPEAT NYSC EXPERINCNE IN ORGANIZING UPE SCHEME.

5. AKWAEZE, GABRIEL C. (TRADE) - PERHAPS LEAST KNOWN OF COMMISSIONERS, AKWAEZE IS IBO WHO WAS EVIDENTLY CHOSEN LARGELY FOR THAT REASON. HE SERVED AT ONE TIME ON EAST-CENTRAL STATE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, AND MOST RECENTLY WAS CONTROLLER OF OPERATIONS AT NIGERIAN BANK FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. AS PROOF HIS NAME IS NO HOUSEHOLD WORD, IT WAS INCORRECTLY LISTED AS E. AKAEZE IN INITIAL FMG PRESS RELEASE (AND SO REPORTED IN REFTEL).

6. CLARK, EDWIN K. (INFORMATION) - FORTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD CLARK IS WESTERN IJAW FROM MID-WESTERN STATE WHO IS LAW GRADUATE OF UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN. ARTICULATE AND FORCEFUL, CLARK HAS BEEN STRONG SUPPORTER OF PRESENT FMG FROM HIS POSTS AS COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY FOR FINANCE AND ESTABLISHMENTS IN HIS HOME STATE. IN BENIN, CLARK WIDELY KNOWN AS SECOND-MOST POWERFUL MAN IN STATE AND EMINENCE GRISE BEHIND MANY GOVERNMENT ACTIONS. CLARK APPEARS RELATIVELY PRO-AMERICAN, BEING MARRIED TO A US-EDUCATED TEACHER AND HAVING SOUGHT RECRUIT AMERICAN STAFF WHEN UNIVERSITY OF BENIN BEING ESTABLISHED.

7. EKPO, MAJOR GENERAL EYO O. (AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES) - EFIK FROM CALABAR, FORTY-SEVEN-YEAR-OLD EKPO SERVED AS CHIEF OF STAFF, SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, FROM 1967 TO 1972. AFTER YEAR SPENT AT ROYAL COLLEGE OF DEFENSE STUDIES, HE RETURNED TO BECOME COMMANDANT OF NIGERIAN DEFENSE ACADEMY. HOWEVER, HE NEVER EFFECTIVELY OCCUPIED POST, HAVING MISSED PART OF LAST YEAR RECUPERATING IN UK FROM PARTIAL STROKE. CONFIDENTIAL

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EKPO IS STUDIOUS AND EFFICIENT, BUT HAS SHOWN RELATIVELY LITTLE PENCHANT FOR EFFECTIVE DECISION-MAKING. EKPO WAS CRITICAL OF SOVIET ASSISTANCE ROLE DURING CIVIL WAR AND HAS ALWAYS APPEARED WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD US.

8. OBASANJO, BRIGADIER OLUSEGUN (WORKS AND HOUSING) - HIGHLY COMPETENT ENGINEER, OBASANJO IS YORUBA WHO WAS BORN IN ABEOKUTA (WESTERN STATE) IN 1937. DURING CIVIL WAR, HE GAINED FAVORABLE

REPUTATION AS CO OF THIRD MARINE COMMANDO DIVISION, WHERE HE WAS KNOWN AS STRICT DISCIPLINARIAN WHO WAS NONETHELESS POPULAR WITH HIS MEN. SINCE END OF WAR, HE HAS SERVED AS INSPECTOR OF ENGINEERS FOR NIGERIAN ARMY, AND HAS BEEN STRONG ADVOCATE OF USE OF TROOPS IN CIVIC ACTION ROLES. MAN OF STRONG CHARACTER, OBASANJO IS BELIEVED SCRUPULOUSLY HONEST AND IS PERHAPS MOST RESPECTED YORUBA OFFICER IN ARMED FORCES. IN MOST RECENT POST, OBASANJO WORKED CLOSELY WITH USAID AND APPEARED STRONGLY PRO-AMERICAN.

9. OLUMIDE, CAPTAIN (NAVY) OLUFEMI (TRANSPORT) - THIRTY-FOUR-YEAR-OLD OLUMIDE, YORUBA FROM PROMINENT LAGOS FAMILY, WAS SERVING IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF TECHNICAL BRANCH AT APAPA NAVAL BASE. GREGARIOUS AND FRIENDLY, OLUMIDE HAS ALWAYS BEEN WELL DISPOSED TOWARD AMERICANS ON PERSONAL BASIS BUT HAS HAD ALMOST NO SUBSTANTIVE CONTACT WITH MISSION. ACCORDING RECENT RUMORS, OLUMIDE HAD ASPIRATION TO BE NEXT GOVERNOR OF LAGOS STATE.

10. SULEIMAN, COLONEL DANIEL (SPECIAL DUTIES) - YOUNGEST OF NEW APPOINTEES, THIRTY-TWO-YEAR-OLD COLONEL SULEIMAN IS CHRISTIAN FROM NORTH-EASTERN STATE AND ONE OF THREE MOST SENIOR PILOTS IN NAF. IN MOST RECENT POST AS COMMANDER, MILITARY AIRLIFT WING AT IKEJA (LAGOS), SULEIMAN EXPRESSED PARTICULAR PLEASURE AT RECENT PURCHASE OF C-130 AND EXPRESSED DESIRE TO GO TO US FOR CONVERSION TRAINING. SULEIMAN IS OF ABOVE AVERAGE INTELLIGENCE AND APPEARS WELL-READ ON CURRENT WORLD EVENTS. HE ADMIRES US TECHNOLOGY AND APPEARS GENERALLY PRO-WESTERN IN BOTH PHILOSOPHY AND LIFE STYLE.

11. SULEMAN, POLICE COMMISSIONER ADAMU (INTERNAL AFFAIRS) - SIXTH-RANKING OFFICER IN NIGERIA POLICE, SULEMAN IS ONE OF FEW SENIOR POLICEMEN WITH UNIVERSITY DEGREE (BA IN HISTORY).
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BORN IN NORTH-EASTERN STATE IN 1932 OR 1933, SULEMAN SERVED WITH NORTHERN NIGERIA PUBLIC SERVICE FROM 1951 TO 1966, BUT WAS REPORTEDLY SECONDED TO "NIGERIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE" DURING LAST FIVE YEARS OF THAT PERIOD. SULEMAN TRANSFERRED TO POLICE IN 1966, AND SERVED MOST RECENTLY AS COMMISSIONER IN CHARGE OF EAST-CENTRAL STATE POLICE COMMAND. HE HAS REPUTATION AS EFFECTIVE AND HONEST OFFICER BUT ALSO AS TOUGH, SOMETIMES UNSCRUPULOUS BUREAUCRATIC INFIGHTER.

12. WUSHISHI, COLONEL M. I. (INDUSTRIES) - MUSLIM FROM MIDDLE-BELT REGION OF NORTH-WESTERN STATE, THIRTY-FOUR-YEAR OLD WUSHISHI SERVED IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO FEC APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY COMMANDANT AT NIGERIAN MILITARY TRAINING COLLEGE NEAR KADUNA. QUIET BUT SELF-ASSURED, WUSHISHI APPEARS INTELLIGENT AND FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD US (WHERE HE ATTENDED COURSE

AT FORT BENNING 1966-67). WUSHISHI IS WELL-KNOWN TO CONSULATE
KADUNA, WHICH BELIEVES HE SHOULD PROVE HARD WORKING AND DEDICATED
COMMISSIONER, OPEN MINDED IN HIS APPROACH, AND MORE IMMUNE TO
CORRUPTION THAN MOST.
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